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Families of Flight 93 Reconnect with LAFD Firefighter of the Year
*As author of Flight 93 National Memorial preamble opening phrase,
honoree maintains unique relationship with Somerset*

SOMERSET, PA – March 20, 2006 – Partners of the Flight 93 National Memorial paid tribute to Los Angeles Fire Department 2005 Firefighter of the Year Captain Stephen Ruda, joining him as special guests at his ceremony on March 9, 2006. Debby Borza, San Diego resident who lost her daughter, Deora Bodley, aboard Flight 93, was there to congratulate Ruda, along with Flight 93 National Memorial representatives Joanne Hanley, superintendent, Flight 93 National Memorial; and Paul and Milena Murdoch, Flight 93 National Memorial design architects.

After September 11, 2001, the Families of Flight 93 and the project partners developed a special bond with Captain Ruda, author of the opening phrase of the preamble to the Flight 93 National Memorial mission statement: *“A common field one day...A field of honor forever.”* These words were inscribed on a quilted wall hanging sent to the memorial as a tribute to the passengers and crew of Flight 93.

“Captain Ruda’s beautiful character is exemplified through his service to Los Angeles, and his admiration for the passengers and crew of Flight 93,” said Borza. “Through his powerful words, he captured the essence of the final resting place of our loved ones, and for that we are grateful.”

“His inspirational words helped lay the foundation for the direction of our project,” said Joanne Hanley, superintendent, Flight 93 National Memorial. “We feel honored to have Captain Ruda, a true hero, as a part of our community here, and we look forward to a long-lasting relationship with him.”

For more information about the Flight 93 National Memorial project and the fundraising campaign, visit <http://www.honorflight93.org> or <http://www.flight93memorialproject.org>.

About the Flight 93 National Memorial

On September 24, 2002, Congress passed the Flight 93 National Memorial Act. The Act created a new national park unit to commemorate the passengers and crew of Flight 93 who, on September 11, 2001, courageously gave their lives thereby thwarting a planned attack on our Nation’s Capital. The memorial will reside on the site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where Flight 93 crashed on September 11, 2001.

Preamble to the Flight 93 National Memorial Mission Statement:

“A common field one day...A field of honor forever.” May all who visit this place remember the collective acts of courage and sacrifice of the passengers and crew, revere this hallowed ground as the final resting place of those heroes, and reflect on the power of individuals who choose to make a difference.”



Photo Caption 1 (Ruda FFOY 2.jpg)

Paul Murdoch, architect of the Flight 93 National Memorial, presented a memorial rendering to Captain Steven Ruda, LAFD Firefighter of the Year, at his award ceremony last week to show the Flight 93 Partners' gratitude and congratulations.



Photo Caption 2 (Ruda Quilt 0007.jpg)

This quilted wall hanging, sent to the Flight 93 National Memorial by California resident Suzi Bird as a tribute to the passengers and crew of Flight 93, contains the inspirational words of Captain Stephen Ruda.

Additional image of Flight 93 Partners with Ruda will be available early this week.

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